

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 060232Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

SECSTATE WASHDC 7181

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 10389

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CB UN

SUBJECT: KHMER AT 29TH G: MADAME PENG'S RESIGNATION

REF: USUN 2695

1. DCM RAISED MATTER OF MADAME PENG'S RESIGNATION WITH FON MIN KEUKY LIM AUGUST 5 AND NOTED THAT WE REGRETTED HER LOSS TO KHMER UN MISSION AT THIS CRITICAL TIME AS SHE HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE AND HARD-WORKING LOBBYIST FOR GKR CAUSE.

2. LIM CONFIRMED THAT SHE HAD GIVEN HIM TWO LETTERS, ONE ASKING FOR 15 DAYS'S LEAVE AND ANOTHER ASKING FOR A YEAR'S LEAVE OF ABSENCE. HE AGREED THAT SHE HAS BEEN MOST EFFECTIVE. LIM DISCUSSED PROBLEM FRANKLY AND SAID THAT IT CAME DOWN TO A PERSONALITY CONFLICT BETWEEN PERM REP CHHUT CHHOEUR AND MADAME PENG, BOTH OF WHOM ARE HEADSTRONG AND LIKE TO RUN THINGS THEIR OWN WAY. ISSUE HAD COME TO A HEAD WHEN CHHOEUR ORDERED PENG TO TURN OVER TO HIM CONTROL OF ALL KHMER MISSION'S FUNDS. LIM SAID PENG WAS CORRECT THAT REGULATIONS REQUIRED HER TO CONTROL FUNDS AND SHE WAS INSISTENT ABOUT THIS BECAUSE SHE WAS FORMERLY HEAD OF ADMIN SECTION OF MINISTRY AND KNOWS REGULATIONS INSIDE OUT. LIM SAID SHE HAD BROKEN DOWN AND WEPT WHEN HE DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH HER. PENG SAID SHE COULD NOT WORK FOR
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CHHOEUR SO THIS WAS END OF HER DIPLOMATIC CAREER.

3. DCM SAID WE CANNOT INVOLVE OURSELVES IN INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF KHER UN MISSION BUT IS REGRETTABLE THAT HER SERVICES WILL APPARENTLY BE LOST IN NEW YORK. LIM SAID HE HAD REASONED WITH CHHOEUR BUT COULD NOT CLAIM SUCCESS. HE AGREED CHHOEUR HAD GOTTEN OFF TO A FINE START IN NEW YORK, BUT HE HAD MOSTLY BEEN SEEING GKR'S FRIENDS AND NEUTRALS. SOON HE WOULD HAVE TO DEAL WITH AFRICANS AND OTHER NON-ALIGNEDS WHO ARE HOSTILE TO GKR, AND WITH THOSE DELEGATIONS MADAME PENG COULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT HELP.

4. COMMENT: LIM IS OBVIOUSLY SYMPATHETIC TO MADAME PENG. WITHOUT GETTING INTO THE MIDDLE OF THIS CONFLICT USUN MIGHT TELL MADAME PENG THAT SHE HAS FRIENDS AND SYPATHIZERS IN PHNOM PENH WHO WISH SHE COULD FIND A WAY TO STAY ON THE JOB AT THIS CRTICIAL TIME.
DEAN

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